

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 6 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A negative active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

a core including crystalline carbon, amorphous carbon or a mixture thereof;
and

a carbon shell formed around the core, the carbon shell including carbon derived from amorphous carbon and having an intermediate structure between an amorphous structure and a crystalline structure, and the carbon shell including a metal selected from the group consisting of a transition metal, an alkali metal and an earth metal.

6. (Amended) A negative active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising:

a core including secondary particles, the secondary particle being prepared by agglomerating at least one primary particle of a crystalline carbon, an amorphous carbon or a mixture thereof; and

a carbon shell formed around the core, the carbon shell including carbon derived from amorphous carbon and having an intermediate structure between an amorphous structure and a crystalline structure, and the carbon shell including a metal selected from the group of consisting of a transition metal, a semi-metal, an alkali metal and an alkali earth metal.